

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 NEA-11 EB-11 DOTE-00 SY-10 USSS-00 IO-14

FAA-00 OMB-01 INRE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 PM-07 NSC-10

SPC-03 SAM-01 SS-20 RSC-01 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00

DRC-01 /115 W

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O 020730Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 9995

S E C R E T SINGAPORE 0442

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINS, SN

SUBJECT: TERRORIST ACTIVITIES IN SINGAPORE

FOR: AMB HOFFACKER AND EA/IMS HEAVNER

1. PRIME MINISTER LEE SUMMOMED ME TO HIS OFFICE THIS MORNING. HE EXPLAINED THAT IMPASSE WITH TERRORISTS CONTINUES(SEE SINGAPORE 0441), BASIC PROBLEM BEING THAT NEITHER SIA NOR JAL WILLING TO TRANSPORT TERRORISTS OUT OF SINGAPORE UNLESS THEY DISARM WHICH TERRORISTS REFUSE TO DO.

2. THE PRIME MINISTER SAID HE NEEDED OUR HELP AND NEEDED IT URGENTLY. HE WAS AFRAID THAT SIA HAD BECOME AN OBVIOUS TARGET FOR HIGHJACKING SINCE GOS HAD BEEN UNABLE TO MEET TERRORISTS DEMANDS. HE SAID GOS NEEDED HELP URGENTLY TO BEEF-UP THEIR AIRPORT AND IN-FLIGHT SECURITY AND TO TRAIN SINGAPORE SECURITY FORCES IN TECHNIQUES OF AIRPORT CONTROL, DETECTION OF POSSIBLE HIGHJACKERS, ETC. HE KNEW WE HAD HAD CONSIDERABLE EXPERIENCE IN THIS AREA AND COULD BE VERY HELPFUL TO THEM.

3. I ASKED HOW MANY MEN HE HAD IN MIND AND HE REPLIED

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"HOW MANY HAVE YOU GOT? HE SAID THEY HAD 16 PLANES IN

SERVICE NOW (2 - 747'S, 5-737'S, AND 9-707'S) AND WHILE HE DIDN'T MAKE A REQUEST FOR ANY SPECIFIC NUMBER, IT'S CLEAR HE'S TALKING ABOUT A DOZEN OR MORE. WE DIDN'T DISCUSS HOW THIS OPERATION WOULD BE FINANCED BUT WE BELIEVE GOS WOULD BE WILLING TO FINANCE THE OPERATION. THE TIME FRAME WAS ALSO UNCLEAR BUT HIS DESIRE IS TO HAVE US PROVIDE SUCH HELP UNTIL SINGAPORE COULD DEVELOP A FIRST-CLASS SECURITY SYSTEM WHICH EVERYONE WOULD RECOGNIZE AS SUCH.

4. THERE APPEARS TO BE THREE OPTIONS WHICH, IN DECLINING ORDER, WOULD BE RESPONSIVE TO THE PM'S REQUEST.

A. TO PROVIDE 10 TO 15 WELL-TRAINED AIR MARSHAL-AIRPORT SECURITY PERSONNEL TO TRAIN SINGAPORE SECURITY PERSONNEL AND ASSIST IN STRENGTHENING AIRPORT AND IN-FLIGHT SECURITY. THESE WOULD OPERATE AT ALL MAJOR SIA TERMINALS.

B. TO SEND A QUALIFIED TRAINING TEAM OF THREE OR FOUR PEOPLE TO SINGAPORE TO PROVIDE INTENSIVE SECURITY TRAINING. THIS IS NOT WHAT PM WANTS, BUT I'M SURE HE'D CONSIDER IT BETTER THAN NOTHING.

C. IDENTIFY A NUMBER OF TRAINED AND EXPERIENCED PERSONNEL WHOM GOS MIGHT HIRE FOR THIS PURPOSE. PROBLEM WITH THIS IS THAT IT WOULD PROOUBLY TAKE TOO MUCH TIME TO ARRANGE TO ACCOMPLISH THE PM'S IMMEDIATE OBJECTIVE, BUT IT MIGHT BE A USEFUL SUPPLEMENT OR FOLLOW-ON OF OPTION B..

4. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH LEE'S CONCERN IS UNDERSTANDABLE AND WE SHOULD MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO BE RESPONSIVE, WE DO NOT THINK THAT OPTION A IS REALLY IN GOS OR U.S. INTEREST. TO HAVE U.S. AIR MARSHALS RIDING SHOTGUN ON SIA PLANES WOULD SERVE TO IDENTIFY SINGAPORE WITH U.S. AND INCREASE POSSIBILITY THEY WOULD BECOME TARGET FOR ARAB TERRORISTS. THEREFORE, BELIEVE WE SHOULD MAKE EVERY EFFORT TO OFFER OPTION B ASAP. WE COULD EITHER INVITE SIA TO SEND THEIR PERSONNEL TO U.S. FOR TRAINING OR ALTERNATIVELY SEND A TRAINING TEAM TO SINGAPORE. DEPARTMENT SHOULD BE AWARE THAT OPTION B IS MUCH LESS THAN WHAT P.M. LEE WANTS, BUT I BELIEVE IT WOULD BE MUCH WISER SOLUTION OVER THE LONG RUN.

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AS NOTED ABOVE, OPTION C MIGHT BE A USEFUL SUPPLEMENT TO OPTION B ALTHOUGH C HAS SOME OF SAME RISKS AS A. WOULD APPRECIATE ADVISE WHETHER QUALIFIED PRIVATE ORGANIZATIONS OR INDIVIDUALS ARE AVAILABLE WHO COULD TAKE ON THIS FUNCTION.
CRONK

NOTE BY OC/T: EXDIS CAPTION REMOVED PER REGINA ELTZ 2/2/74.

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NNN

Message Attributes

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